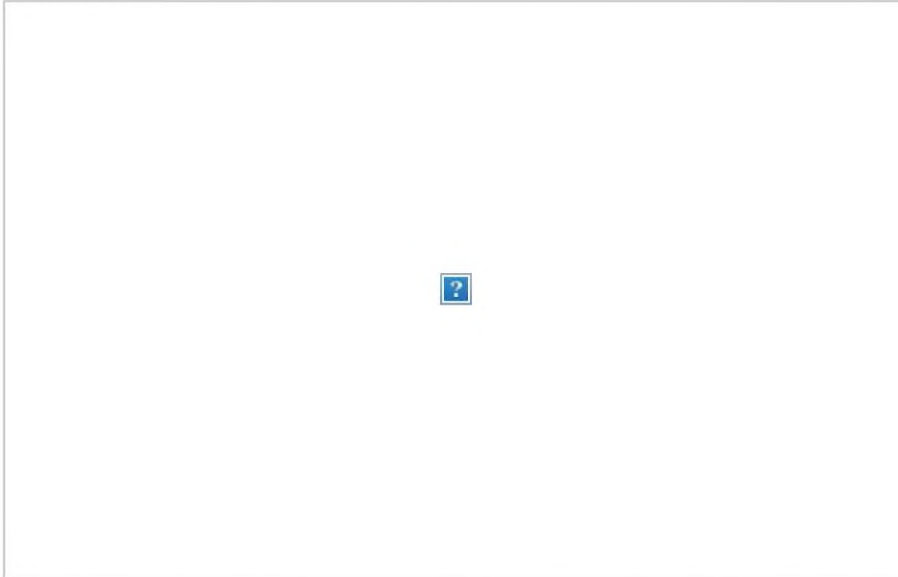


From: [Pervazova, Iana](#)
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Subject: PANAMA'S FOREIGN MINISTER MOUYNES, SPECIAL GUEST AT UN HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE
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FOREIGN MINISTER MOUYNES, SPECIAL GUEST AT UN HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE

June 1, 2021



Panama, June 1, 2021 - The Foreign Minister of Panama, Erika Mouynes, participated today in the UN High-Level Debate on the Ocean and Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, where she highlighted that Panama on June 8, World Oceans Day, will achieve an outstanding 30% protection of underwater areas, in compliance with international climate change agreements.

In the important forum, dedicated to the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Foreign Minister stressed that Panama supports climate diplomacy strategies to lead regional and hemispheric initiatives aimed at the "urgent need" to protect and restore our oceans, whose conservation is essential "to maintaining the productive foundation and essential ecological processes that guarantee life."

As an example, the Minister said, "in less than a week, on June 8, World Oceans Day, Panama will be part of the select group of countries with at least 30% of their marine area protected," with the expansion of the Managed Resources Protected Area of the Coiba underwater mountain range in the Panamanian territorial waters of the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

"This decision will benefit the ecological connectivity between the marine areas of Costa Rica, Colombia and the Galapagos Islands, in Ecuador, facilitating the migration of highly threatened marine species and benefiting the conservation of an area of recognized world value thanks to its biodiversity and endemism," said Minister Mouynes

At this point, the Panamanian Foreign Minister called on the Eastern Tropical Pacific countries to

strengthen and expand their own protected areas, to consolidate a natural marine corridor, considered as a transnational "biogeographic province," due to its common and complementary characteristics, which require comprehensive management.

The "green agenda" of Panama, she added, promotes other initiatives for the care of the oceans, such as the National Policy on Wetlands, the National Policy on Oceans, the National Action Plan for Marine Litter and Panama's support of and active participation in global efforts, such as the 30 x 30 initiative and the GloLitter project, together with UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Maritime Organization, to reduce the presence of ocean waste.

For Panama, an interoceanic country and one of three carbon negative countries in the world, "guaranteeing the health of the bodies of the sea is a matter of survival," Minister Mouyynes said shortly before noting that the country will host the eighth edition of the international conference "Our Oceans." The meeting was last held in person in Oslo in 2019, bringing together more than 500 world leaders from nearly one hundred nations.

In closing, Minister Mouyynes called on experts to improve the economic valuation methods associated with the goods and services that result from the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems and ensure biodiversity as a global heritage and a basis for development. "How can we improve the measurement and dissemination of the indisputable economic benefit of marine conservation?" she asked.

The forum moderators were Ligia Nohonra, Undersecretary General of the United Nations Environment Program; Elizabeth Marema Mruma, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Martin Stuchtey, from the Systemiq Earth Group for Climate Action, and Haydee Rodríguez, Vice Minister of Waters and Seas of Costa Rica, the main partner country of the GloLitter initiative, a program to promote the reduction of marine litter, of which Panama is a part.

This material is distributed by Edelman on behalf of the government of Panama. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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